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The Long Island **FISHERMAN**

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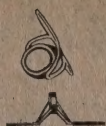
January 21st, 1982 ★ Volume 17, Number 3 ★ 17th Year of Publishing ★ SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

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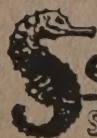
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Pass It On...

N.Y. NATIONAL SPORTSMEN'S EXPO OPENS AT NASSAU COLISEUM

When the doors open at the New York National Sportsmen's Expo, from January 27th through 31st, at the Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale, Long Island, sportsmen will be in for a real treat. Fast becoming a standard each year, this exposition covering fishing, hunting, camping and boats for fishermen, will be the only show of its type in the Metropolitan Area devoted strictly to the out-of-doors pursuits.

Displays covering both salt and fresh water fishing will abound with leading national tackle manufacturers such as Penn Reel, Daiwa, Shakespeare, Fenwick, Shimano and a host of others exhibiting their newest 1982 lines. Even the biggest line manufacturers like Stren and Berkley will be on hand to espouse the whys and wherefors of choosing and using the most suitable lines. Add in lure manufacturers and local fishing outlets and charter boat displays and you've got just about everything a fisherman could want. As an added feature, sportsmen attending the show will also have an opportunity to try out their choice of the latest fishing tackle in the show's casting areas.

For the fisherman who is interested in a small boat to suit his particular fishing needs, his desires will be answered with displays and dealers representing leading brands of center console boats, cuddy cabins and other fishing type boats. It will all be at the show for the complete fisherman!

Shooting buffs will not be denied, as the show will have a multitude of gun and accessory exhibits along with displays by ranges, where the shooter can spend his leisure hours. There will be instruction and demonstrations on both the proper use of firearms and reloading equipment, offering sportsmen a big saving in these times of rising costs. As in the past, the New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation will be on hand to discuss the complete outdoors and as a service to those attending the show, will have both hunting and fishing licenses available.

Campers can literally start their 1982 trips at the Sportsmen's Expo as there will be exhibits of the latest 1982 motorhomes, travel trailers and tent campers on hand. Add in displays by campgrounds from the entire Northeast and accessories and you've got everything a camper could want; a wealth of equipment and information.

A real treat for sportsmen attending the show will be the free shows within

the show. The Fisher Brothers Championship Log Rolling Team will be coming in from Michigan's deep woods to entertain folks with their log rolling skills and antics in the show's pool. (Even the family dog is a log roller.) Another free treat will be the many seminars that will be held covering fishing, shooting sports and camping. Among the guest speakers will be Al Ristori, nationally read outdoor writer, presented by Daiwa and covering saltwater fishing, a Shimano expert for freshwater fishing; Bill Balough - Brookhaven Rangelmaster, on the shooting sports and Bill Shaber, Technical Editor of "The Camper" magazine, covering camping on a budget.

A wide selection of exhibits by sportsmen's clubs and federations covering waterfowling, fishing, archery, the shooting sports and camping will make the New York National Sportsmen's Expo the finest show of its kind that the Metropolitan New York Area has hosted in years.

Hours for the show are from 2PM-10PM, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday; Saturday from 10AM to 10PM and from Noon to 6PM on Sunday. Admission is \$3.75 for adults, \$1.50 for children from 6-12 years, with tots under six admitted free.

You'll find it all at the New York National Sportsmen's Expo, when the great outdoors goes indoors from January 27th through January 31 at the Nassau Veteran's Memorial Coliseum in Uniondale, Long Island.

BOATING COURSE

Islip Flotilla 1-3 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will be offering a course on Boating Skills and Seamanship at the East Islip Senior High School on Redman Street in Islip Terrace. The course consists of 13, two hour lessons commencing on February 11, 1982 at 8PM. It is designed to enhance safety awareness and provide greater proficiency which will make your boating safe and more trouble free.

Registration will be held at the high school on January 25, 26, and 27 from 7-9PM, or at the first class. The cost of the course is \$10 which includes the text and workbook. Additional information may be obtained by calling 589-8354.

BOAT HANDLING COURSE IN BROOKLYN

The Brooklyn Power Squadron will start the new boating season early by conducting registration for a course in small boat handling on Thursday, January 28th at 7PM, at St. Francis College, 180 Remsen St., just a half block from the Brooklyn Borough Hall.

Skippers and would-be skippers, both men and women, over the age of 16 are invited to attend the 12-week course. Ownership of a boat is not required.

Classes will be held at St. Francis on Thursdays at 7:30 PM, starting on



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Volume 17, Number 3

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About the Cover—

While snow, cold, and icy blasts batter the Northeast, sailfish action is picking up steam down in Florida. See Pete Barrett's Travel Feature on page 22.

COMING
NEXT
WEEK:

• **MAKING A SKIN PLUG** •
MORE ROD BUILDING • TRAVEL

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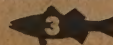
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February 4. The classes cover the techniques of safe handling of outboard and inboard craft, anchoring, tying basic knots, reading charts and plotting courses, use of a mariner's compass, and safety afloat.

Aids to navigation, such as buoys and radio beacons, are explained in illustrated lectures. The efficient use of power boats for maximum gas mileage will be described. And the new rules of the road for safe operation also will be taught to students.

The Brooklyn Power Squadron, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons, conducts the classes to teach sail and power boaters the skills they must possess for safety on the water. Additional information can be obtained by calling 768-4714.

BOATING COURSE

Flotilla 11-5 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is rendering a Public Education Course, dealing with the arts of boating skills and safety. This is a 16-lesson course, and is the longest known such course as given by the Auxiliary. Eleven lessons take the student through the art of boat handling to the knowledge of radio-telephone communication. The last five lessons are devoted to the physical aspect of plotting courses on nautical charts. The course starts on Monday evening, February 1, 1982, and will continue at 8PM every Monday evening. The course will be rendered in the Clubhouse of the Diamond Point Y.C., located at 1350 Peardegar Avenue in the Canarsie section of Brooklyn, N.Y. A nominal fee of \$25 will be charged to each student which will cover the cost of an abundance of materials as are necessary to a course as comprehensive as this one. Remember, the course is free and students wishing to partake in the lecture aspect of the course, need pay no fee.

Need more info? Call Flotilla Commander Harry Frankel, any business day, 9:30 to 4:30 at 212-868-8853, or write to him at the Yacht Club.

FREE BOATING COURSES IN NASSAU COUNTY

Spring is "just around the corner" for the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, whose members are dedicated to educating the public in BOATING SAFETY.

In its 25th year of teaching, Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 13-8 will sponsor free safe boating courses for the entire family in both Seaford and Bethpage locations.

For the adults, there will be the 12-lesson "Boating Skills and Seamanship." The course covers Boat Handling, Aids to Navigation, Compass and Charts, Piloting, Rules of the Road, Radiotelephone, Marlin-spike Seamanship, Legal Requirements and a number of other subjects which will enable you to operate a boat safely and efficiently.

At the same time, there will be

special classes for the kids, running concurrently with the adult course, in an adjoining room. The course, "Make Sure—Make Shore," is a N.Y. State certified course which has been completely re-written this year and results in the Junior Operator's License upon completion.

Bethpage H.S., Stewart Ave.
Bethpage: Registration—Jan. 25 & 27; 7:30—8:30PM.

Seaford Ave. School, Seaford Ave.
Seaford: Registration—Jan. 25, 26, 27; 7:30—8:30PM.

Classes are Tuesday evenings from 8—10PM, beginning February 2nd.

For further information, contact Flotilla 13-8 Public Education Dept. at (516) 541-8398 or (516) 735-5611.

FREEPORT TUNA CLUB ELECTS SLATE FOR '82

The Freeport Tuna Club has elected to office for 1982 the following officers:

President—Frank Delman; 1st Vice President—John McCreary; 2nd Vice President—Bart Yenna; Secretary—Bob Trapani, and Treasurer—Mike Sullivan.

The Board of Directors will be: Dr. Sam Klein; Charles Berwind; Ron Feuring; Bob Lederer; Sil Mazzilli; Max Horowitz; Alan Radi; Jeff Squeri; Ed Schuh; Jerry Kappauf; Sal Gebbia; Joe Impellizzieri; Paul Pekar.

FREE BOATING COURSE

A free Boating Course in Outboard/Inboard/Sail will be offered by the Patchogue Bay Power Squadron. Registration will be Monday, January 25th, 7:30PM at Sagamore Jr. High School, Division Rd., Holtsville. Ownership of a boat is not required. The course is not only for the beginner, but a good brush-up for the experienced boater.

The 10 to 12 week U.S. Power Squadron Course is open to men, women and teenagers. The course will include boating skills, maintenance, navigation and safety.

The United States Power Squadron is the largest educational institution in the world dedicated to the teaching of safe handling of boats.

For more information contact Lt. Frank F. Herbert, 981-4324.

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New Products

'82 SPIDER TACKLE CATALOG AVAILABLE

GM Products announced the publication of its 1982 Catalog of Spider Tackle. Several new items grace this 12-page listing of high-quality tackle for both inshore and offshore fishing.

Among the new items are lures for both the offshore canyon fisherman and the inshore troller.



Spider's new **Sea Serpent** is a new skirted, fully rigged, inshore trolling lure. It has already taken jumbo blues in the Northeast, while also subduing 10 lb. dolphin in Florida waters. The Serpent is destined to become the inshore Green Machine.

Complimenting Spider's already extensive line of offshore lures is the new **Spider Daisy Chain**. Unlike other "chains" on the market, Spider's Daisy Chain is rigged and ready to use. It is the only Daisy Chain rigged with a 10/0 Mustad hook with either 275# or 49 strand cable or 250# test mono. The Daisy Chain is an ideal "teaser" lure, which normally is run far back (down the center) of the offshore trolling pattern. In the past "chains" have not been rigged with a hook, but have been used to attract marlin into the pattern with another lure being substituted for the "chain" when the marlin was attracted. Often, however, the fish was more interested in the "chain" and fish were lost when the "chain" was removed. The Spider Daisy Chain has proven that it is a real marlin attractor and will bring fish to the boat.

New skirt colors will also abound in the **Spider Offshore** collection. In addition to the Tried and True **Spider Green Machine** and **Spider Purple Machine**—new colors will include a clear, highly metal flecked Squid color, labeled **Spider Squid Machine**; an excited Squid color, labeled **Pink Squid Machine**; a light translucent green, labeled **Kelly-Green Machine**; and a multi-color skirt, grading from blue on top to green sides to yellow on the bottom, labeled **Spider Sea-Lone**. All have been extensively tested during the 1981 offshore season and each produced extremely well.

The catalog has something for just about everyone: the Jointed Spider Eel for the surf and jetty jockey; Mark rigs for the mako hunter; 7 series diamond jigs for blues, bass

and weaks; umbrellas and tubes for the inshore troller; Tiger Tails for the jigger, and much, much more. Each item is listed by code number, size, weight and hook sizes available. Also included are color codes for both inshore and offshore lures. It acts as an excellent reference manual.

Catalog copies are available by sending fifty cents for postage and handling to: Spider Tackle, 8 Iris Court, Milltown, NJ 08850.

MODEL 1225 MAGNUM EAGLE FROM BYRD INDUSTRIES

Well-suited to practically any trailerable boat, the new "Model 1225 Magnum Eagle" electric fishing motor from Byrd Industries combines the quiet efficiency of 12-volt operation with 8-position transom-mount versatility.

Particularly useful whenever the bow design of a boat renders a bow-mount motor bracket unfeasible (many rental craft, canoes, and deck-less deep-Vs, for example), the Model 1225 features hand-controlled fixed tru-course steering for easy turning and steady tracking.

Standard equipment on the Model 1225 includes three forward and three reverse speeds, reversible control head, full depth adjustment, heavy duty 12-gauge wiring, water- and dust-resistant switch assemblies, coated corrosion-resistant terminals, triple-sealed prop shaft, and automatic circuit breaker with manual reset.

Drawing only 23 amps on high speed, the motor delivers 24 lbs. maximum thrust and features the added performance of a large high-torque propeller.

A 36" shaft is standard on the Model 1225, with 30-42 in. shafts optionally available at no extra charge.

Competitively priced, the Byrd Model 1225 motor is backed by Byrd's exclusive 3-year warranty on the

power unit, and a full-year warranty on the bracket. Both warranties, to the knowledge of the manufacturer, are the strongest offered on any power unit and bracket currently available.

From Byrd Industries, Inc., South Industrial Park, Ripley, TN 38063.

NEW HIGH-THRUST ELECTRIC POSITIONING MOTORS NEW TO JOHNSON OUTBOARD '82 LINE

Two new high-thrust electric fishing motors, the type used by serious bass fishermen to spot position their boats, have been unveiled by Johnson Outboards.

With 31 lbs. of static thrust, the king of the Johnson® electric line is a 12/24 volt foot-controlled positioning unit. The Johnson 12 volt model, now delivers 21 thrust pounds. The new electrics are 40% more powerful than the models they replaced.

They swing bigger, weedless propellers, and the internal components have been refined to handle the extra current.

Johnson officials said its thrust figures, unlike many competitors, are measured by S.A.E. (Society of Automotive Engineers) methods—after the initial start-up surge of the battery has settled down to a relatively constant current draw.

The growing demand for the high freeboard "pike boat" in the northern tier of states has prompted Johnson to also include an optional 42" length shaft (six inches longer) for both foot-controlled models.

The foot-controlled models come in either five or eight foot steering cable lengths with a lighted directional indicator panel, a three-speed control for 12 volt models, and a six speed control for the 12/24 volt version.

All Johnson electrics have a special rest pad and easy rope-pull retrieval system with geometrically-designed action arm to guide the unit into the proper deck position.

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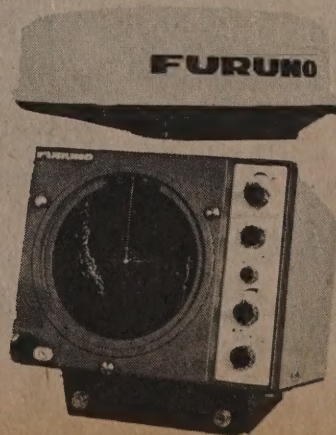
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RIGGING BAITS

I've been trying to use live killies for fluke baits for many fishing trips, but they don't seem to stay alive for very long. A friend showed me how to rig them cross-ways between the eyes, but another fisherman I met at the launch ramp told me that way was wrong. Can you tell me any better ways to hook a live killie so they don't die so quickly? **Robbie Knowles**

Talk to ten fluke fishermen who fish live killies as bait and you might come up with ten different ways to rig them: each fisherman has his own "best" method. Two methods we favor put the hook through the dorsal area or tail, or into the top lip.

Larger killies are easy to hook in the dorsal meaty area just ahead or just in back of the dorsal fin. Use a small wire hook which will penetrate the skin and pass through the meat with no damage to the bait. Don't put the hook in too deep or you will break the backbone and lose the bait. Some anglers use a variation of this and hook the killie in the tail area, again being careful not to damage the backbone.

Other anglers favor pushing the hook up into the top lip, or nose of the killie. There is a bony piece here just behind the lip and ahead of the eyes. Once the hook is secured in this bone

it shouldn't come out. Others push the hook up and out one eye, out the lower jaw in the chin or cross-ways through the eyes. The nose-hooking seems to do the least damage to the bait; while the hooking methods that get too close to the brain can kill the bait immediately.

This past summer we fished the Wilmington and Baltimore Canyons about eight times and had some great days and some not so great days. We fished with both lures and rigged baits. The baits seemed to work erratically when compared to the lures and many of the baits just fell apart after trolling only a short time. Other boats at our marina and dock said they had better trolling for marlin with rigged baits, but did better on bigeye and yellowfin tuna with the lures. Since my buddies and I want to catch a marlin, we want to learn how to rig baits.

Are there any schools or books you can recommend that would help us learn the needed techniques of bait rigging?

Bob & John LaVerne. There are three excellent books on bait rigging that are readily available to you. A long time favorite has been Vic Dunaway's "Baits, Rigs and

Tackle," published by Wickstrom Publishers, 2701 South Bay Shore Drive, Suite 501, Miami, FL 33033. It costs \$4.95 plus another buck for shipping and postage. This book is also available at many tackle stores throughout your area.

Another excellent title is "The Blue Water Bait Book" by Captains Samuel Earp and William Wildeman published as a Sports Illustrated Book by Little, Brown & Company. It costs \$9.95 and is also sold at tackle shops but may not be as widely available as the Dunaway book. You can order it from book stores like Waldens, Dalton or a local book store. The book is currently in print and can be special ordered.

Salt Water Sportsman Magazine sells both titles and you can get their prices by checking a current issue or by writing to them at 10 High St. Boston, Mass; Att: Rip Cunningham

Penn Reel Manufacturing Company also puts out a very comprehensive bait rigging book that is again sold in most tackle shops. Check with your local dealer for more information or write to Penn at 3028 West Hunting Park Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19132, to the attention of Ed Mesunas. The title is "How to Rig Baits for Trolling" and the book covers mullet, balao, squi-





and other offshore baits.

There are also several fishing schools sponsored by The Fisherman Magazine in Edison, Manasquan, Mt. Laurel, Wilmington and Baltimore that will cover some aspects of rigging baits. There are also several other schools at Parsippany, Paramus and Kenilworth that do cover some offshore fishing techniques. Check upcoming ads in The Fisherman for dates of these schools.

Another good learning experience is to charter a canyon running captain and spend some time with him at the

slow times of the trip. The captain or the mate will usually be agreeable to showing you some rigging techniques so long as it doesn't interfere with the business of fishing. I know of several canyon fishermen who paid a captain to show them bait rigging during the winter months. You might check with the dockmaster at your marina to see if any charter captains will help you. Remember, they may not want to divulge their secrets, so don't be put off if you don't get a favorable answer. It's their business to stay one step ahead of everyone else.

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★ HOW-TO SPECIAL ★

by John V. Konior

From the time I was a kid, way back when, I took an interest in taking care of my own tackle. My early attempts at rod building and restoration weren't that great, but at least I tried. Over the years, being the avid fisherman I consider myself to be, I've amassed quite a collection of rods. It's actually become a sideline hobby to collect and restore old rods.

It got to the point where each winter I found myself restoring from 6-12 rods. I needed something in the way of a workbench to expedite my rod restoration efforts. Although there are many variations of the workbench, the one I settled upon has proven to be quite effective and innovative. More importantly, the bench is not difficult or expensive to build. Much

of the material can usually be found laying around the house and whatever else is required can be easily obtained. Moreover, general household tools can be utilized to build it.

To help simplify the project, I've organized the building plans into two sections: I—The Bench; II—The Spool Holder/Thread Guide.

THE ROD BUILDING BENCH

TOOLS REQUIRED:

Crosscut saw
Hammer
Ruler
Pencil
Screwdriver
Heavy duty stapler (optional)
Power or manual drill
3/16" drill bit
Scissors

MATERIAL REQUIRED:

1 - 10"x48"x3/4" pine or plywood board
8 - 1 1/4" wood screws
62" of 3/4" width felt weather stripping
8 - 1/2" thin wire flat head nails
Sandpaper (optional)
Glue (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS (Refer to Illustrations)

1. On 10"x48" board: Measure 12" from one end. Cut off the 12" piece and lay aside.

2. Using 10"x36" piece (one side): Measure in 2 1/2" from side and draw a line parallel over entire length. Repeat the procedures across the board.

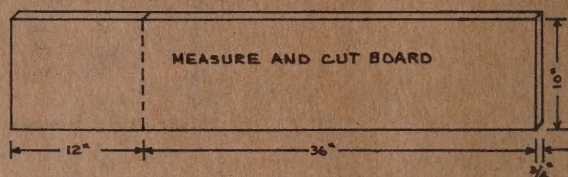
Now measure the following from the left side of the board: 3/8", 12", 24", and 34 5/8" on both sides of its length. Draw lines across the board connecting each side.

Now measure in from either side 3" along the four lines drawn above, and draw a point where they intersect. These are the points where you will drill holes for screws. Drill through the board at the 8 intersection points using a 3/16" drill bit.

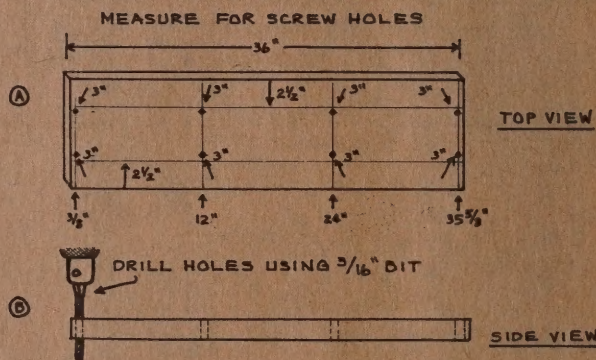
3. Turn the board over and cut four 10" strips from weather stripping. Attach strips at either end, with the third approximately one ft. from the end, and the fourth around one ft. from the other end.

NOTE: Be careful not to cover screw

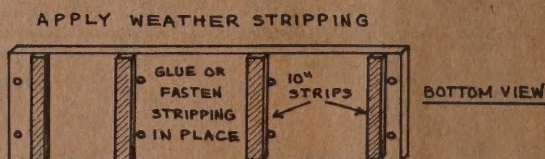
STEP 1



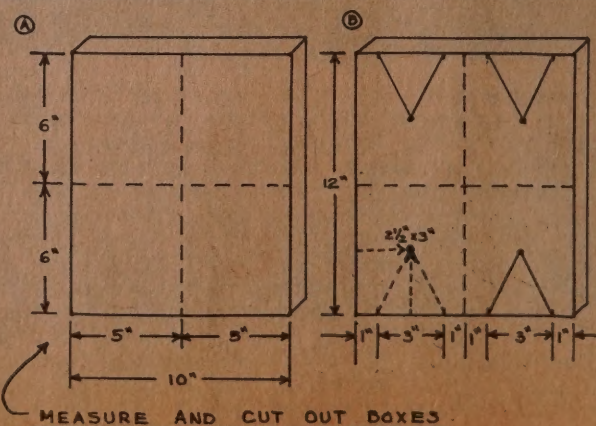
STEP 2



STEP 3



STEP 4



holes; the strips can be nailed, stapled or glued. The purpose of the strips is to prevent sliding, to level the board, and to prevent marring of any surface the board is resting on. In this connection, make sure to counter-set any nails or staples you use.
Lay the board aside.

4. On 10"x12" board: on 12" side, measure in 6" and draw a line across the board. On 10" side, measure in 5" and draw a line across the board. You now have four 5"x6" boxes drawn.

5. For each 5"x6" piece: Measure (on the side opposite the cut-out triangle) 1/2" in from each side, and place a mark in the center (which is 3/8" from either side). Drill a hole at the two intersection points for each box using the 3/16" drill bit (drill into for approximately 1/4").

6. Join boxes to main board: Align box with main board and screw into place. Repeat for each box. Place board right side up.

7. Apply weather stripping: Cut remaining weather stripping into four 5 1/2" pieces. For each box lay in weather stripping in triangle. Either glue, nail or staple in weather stripping.

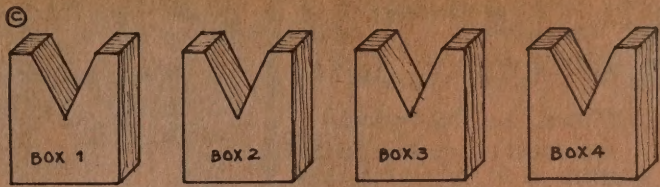
NOTE: When nailing or stapling, be careful not to have them protrude or they will scratch and/or mar rod and/or windings.

8. Finish the board (optional): Paint or varnish the board for a professional looking product.

NOTE: If you decide to paint or varnish, do it before you attach the weather stripping.

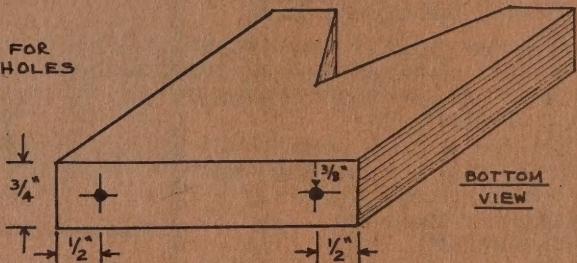
9. The board is now complete except for the thread spool holder and thread guide.

STEP 4



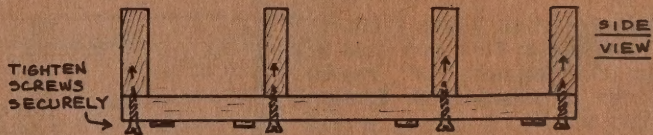
STEP 5

MEASURE FOR
SCREW HOLES



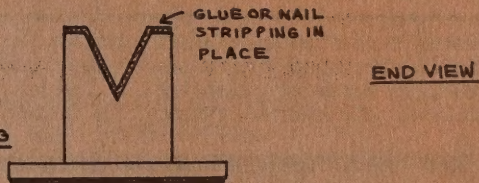
STEP 6

FASTEN BOXES TO BOARD



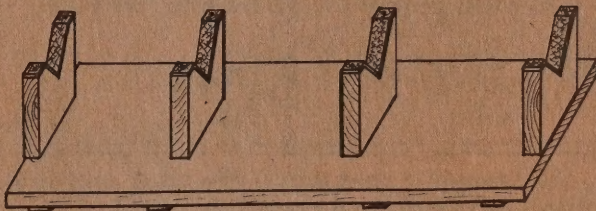
STEP 7

ATTACH
WEATHER STRIPPING



STEPS 8 & 9

COMPLETE ROD BENCH



THE SPOOL HOLDER/ THREAD GUIDE

TOOLS REQUIRED:

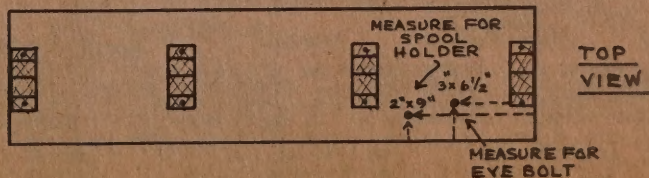
Screwdriver
Pliers or small wrench
Drill
3/16" drill bit

MATERIAL REQUIRED:

1 - 3/16"x6" threaded bolt
1 - 3/16" hex nut
2 - 3/16" small washers
3 - 1/4"x1-1/4" washers

(Continued on next page.)

STEP 1 & 2



- 1 - 3/8" - 1/2" x 2 inch spring
- 1 - 3/16" wing nut
- 1 - 1/2" ring/eye bolt
- 1 - 3/16"-1/4" locking washer

INSTRUCTIONS (see Illustrations):

1. Using completed board: From right end, measure in 9" and from side facing you measure in 2", marking the point of intersection. Using 3/16" drill bit, drill hole through board.

2. Assemble Spool Holder: Place small 3/16" washer on threaded 6" bolt, and insert bolt through hole from bottom of board.

Place the second small 3/16" washer on bolt, and the 3/16" hex nut; tighten nut securely.

Now slip on in sequence:

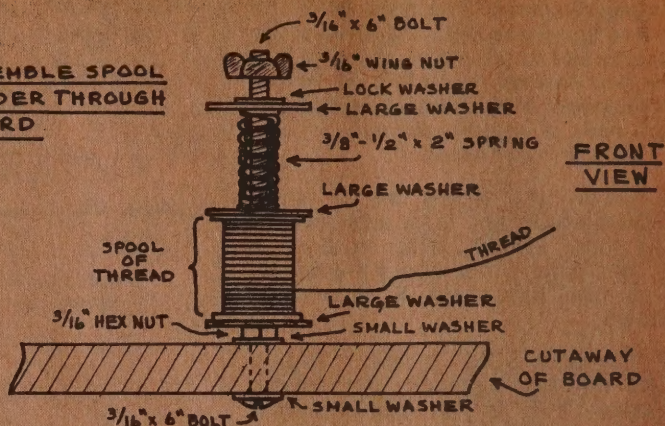
- 2 large washers
- spring
- remaining large washer
- locking washer
- wing nut

3. Position Thread Guide: From right end, measure in 6 1/2" and from side facing you measure in 3", marking the point of intersection. Screw in ring/eye bolt.

4. The rod bench is now complete.

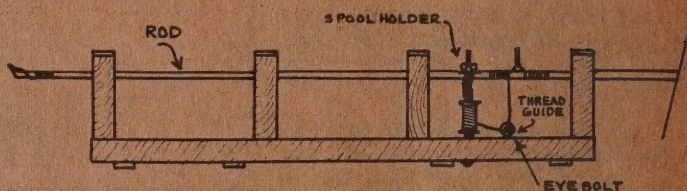
STEP 2

ASSEMBLE SPOOL HOLDER THROUGH BOARD



STEP 4

COMPLETED ROD BENCH



The beauty of the Spool Holder/Thread Guide is that spool tension can be controlled by screwing down the wing nut until the desired thread

tension is arrived at, and it will remain constant throughout.

The felt, by the way, is to reduce rod friction and it doesn't scratch.

When you've completed this handy tool, you're long on the way to being able to build and/or restore your own fishing rods. Good Luck!

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THE FISHERMAN QUIZ

① MORE FISHERMEN CATCH MORE FISH THROUGH THE ICE THAN THE SAME LAKE YIELDS ON ITS BEST DAY DURING THE SUMMER.

TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐

② SMALL COD ARE CALLED "ROCK COD" BECAUSE THE COLOR OF THE BOTTOM. USUALLY...

REDDISH ☐
GREENISH ☐
BLUEISH ☐

CODFISH ARE CALLED "ROCK" BECAUSE THEY TAKE ON

ANSWERS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.

BY FRED GUARDINEER



③ WHICH OF THESE FISH ISN'T A TRUE BASS? C-LARGEMOUTH BASS ☐
A-STRIPED BASS ☐ B-SMALLMOUTH BASS ☐ D-CHANNEL BASS ☐



④ WALLEYES IN RIVERS LURK IN DEEP HOLES DURING THE DAY AND MOVE INTO THE SHALLOWS IN THE EVENING. TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐

⑤ PEARLS RESEMBLING WHITE OR PURPLE BEADS ARE OCCASSIONALLY FOUND IN THE BAY QUAHOG OR HARD CLAM. ON THE MARKET THEY ARE WORTH...

\$25.00 ☐
\$35.00 ☐
\$45.00 ☐

⑥ WHY DO FISHERMEN WHO CATCH SHARKS FOR FOOD CHOP OFF THE CAUDAL FIN (TAIL) SO THAT THE STILL-PUMPING HEART WILL FORCE THE BLOOD OUT OF THE SEVERED ARTERY, A SUBSCRIBER ASKS?



1 - TRUE, BECAUSE OF GREATER CONCENTRATION OF FISH & FISHERMEN. 2 - REDDISH. 3 - ONLY THE STRIPER IS A TRUE BASS. THE LARGEMOUTH AND THE SMALLMOUTH BASS ARE SUNFISH WHILE THE CHANNEL BASS IS A DRUM. 4 - TRUE. 5 - \$35.00. 6 - SHARKS HAVE 2 TO 2.5% UREA IN THEIR BLOOD AND IF IT IS NOT DRAINED IMMEDIATELY, THE UREA TURNS TO AMMONIA WHICH GIVES OFF A PUNGENT ODOR.

— ROD BUILDING SERIES —

CHOOSING THE BLANK AND HARDWARE

Part Three — *by C. Boyd Pfeiffer*

In Part I of this series, we pointed out the basics needed for rod building in terms of the rod blank, reel seat, guides and top, grips, or handle, butt cap and winding check. But it is important to go into some detail so that when you place an order with a mail order house, or walk into the tackle store, you get exactly what you want and what you need in terms of materials, sizes, finish, quality and price.

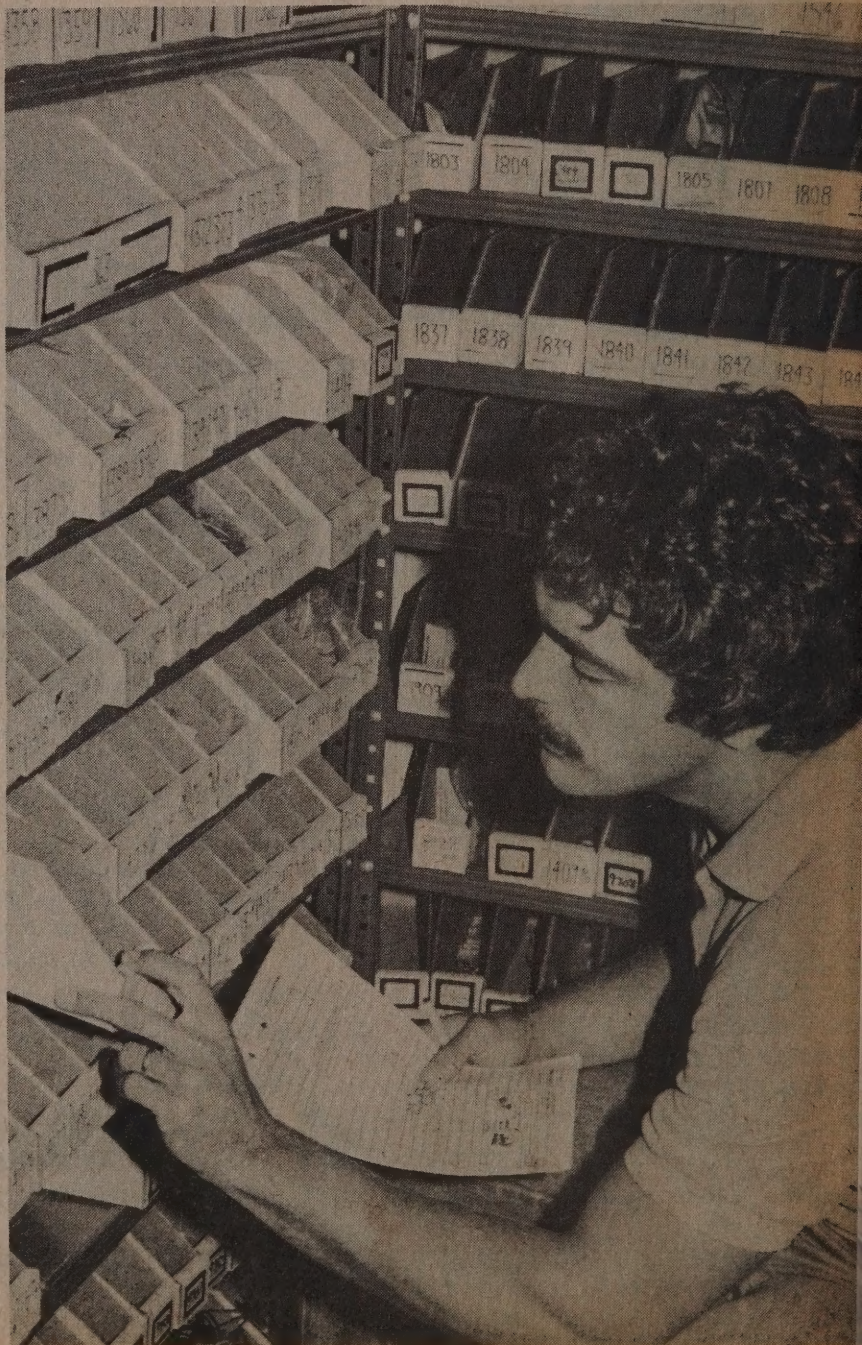
Take rod blanks, for example. That's probably the most confusing item to buy, not because you don't know what you want, but because of the vast array of blanks of different materials, quality, action, power, etc., even within the category that interests you.

Most mail order houses will list rods including the information on the manufacturer, material used, type of rod blank, model number, length, line (fly fishing or line range for others), lure range in ounces, butt diameter (necessary in spin cast and casting blank to fit the ferrule), tip diameter (necessary to fit the tiptop), weight in ounces of the blank, action and power.

Usually it is best to decide on a rod blank by a process of elimination, beginning with the type of fishing that you are doing, the type of rod you want (fly, spinning, spin cast, casting, surf, or boat), the length you like, and the lure range you will cast. This will narrow down your choice considerably, leaving a choice of materials (graphite, glass, S glass, boron, etc.), action, and power.

Often you can make the first round of eliminations by comparing what you need with rods that you already have, either in duplicating them as closely as possible or making different rod. In duplicating a rod, it is usually easy to come up with a blank that has the same specs as on the rod you like. If you wish to vary from this, have definite ideas on what you want, and how you want the rod different from an existing rod that you own.

Material does make the difference, both in terms of the performance of the rod and also the price that you will have to pay for the rod blank. Since graphite is an expensive raw material,



Thousands of parts are available for rod building and most are available through good supply houses. Here, Greg Clem fills an order for guides for a customer of Tackle Crafters.

the cost of the rod blank is almost directly proportional to the amount of material in it. Surf and heavy offshore rolling rods in graphite will be very expensive.

If the qualities of graphite are important to you in terms of the lighter weight, increased sensitivity, rapid recovery to bending, etc., then graphite is worth the price. S-glass blanks are a high quality glass blank, typified by the Fenglass Fenwick rod blank and the S-glass by Lamiglas. As a result, they will approach the qualities of graphite more closely, but won't match it. Regular glass blanks are still excellent for many rod applications and have the advantage of being inexpensive and readily available.

Two terms that are often confused in buying rod blanks are "action" and "power." "Action" as it is generally used refers to the type of bending that the rod does. Thus, rods that bend primarily in the tip section are extra fast or fast action rods.

Those rod blanks that bend down into about half or more of the blank are usually termed parabolic and those with a bend that occurs down into the handle are soft rods. Often manufacturers will have a code or chart for the types of action. Fenwick, for example, describes their four actions as extra fast, fast, moderate and slow. Lamiglas describes their blanks as extra fast, fast, medium and slow. Often fast tip rods are best for flipping plastic worms or throwing light lures where a stiff rod will still be needed to handle the fish. Moderate and slow action rods are best for most applications, especially for fly fishing and surf where fast action rods will not cast well.

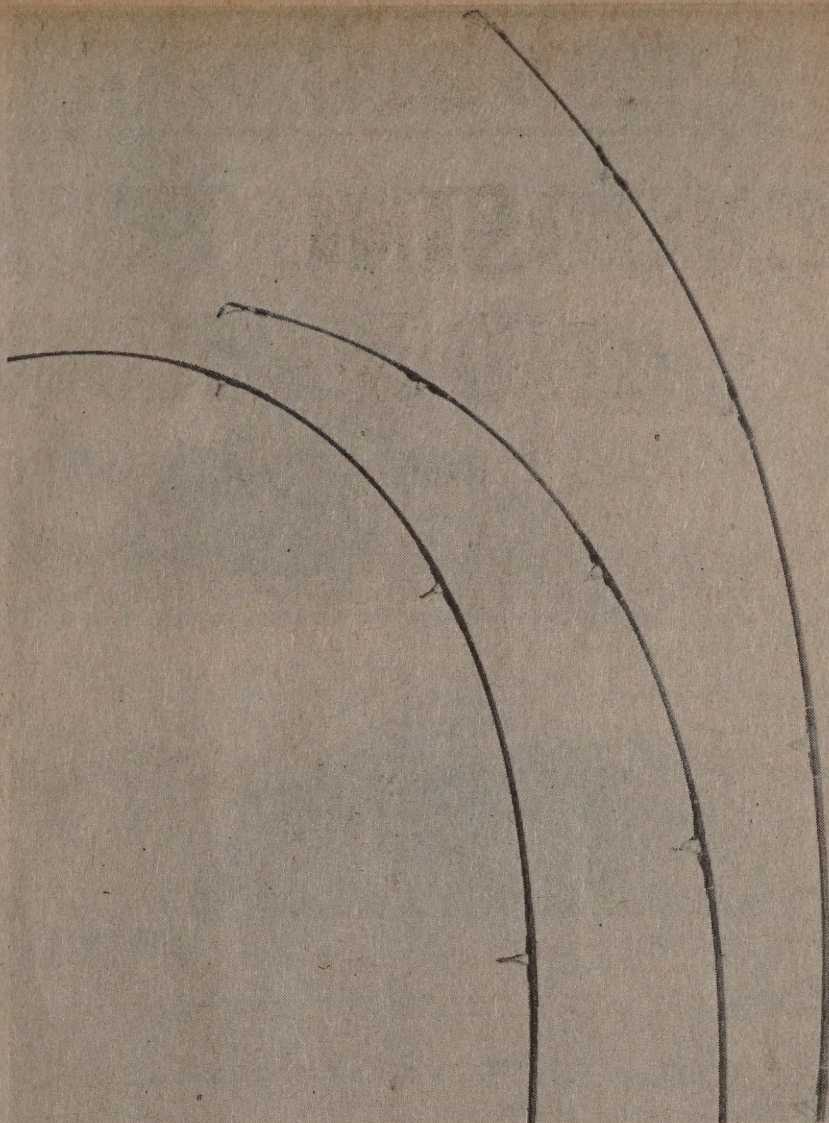
"Power" in the rod refers to the stiffness of the rod in relation to the job it must do and is a relative term. For example, a "heavy" spinning rod would still bend far more easily than a "light" surf rod which is designed for longer casts with heavier lures.

Often terms for power in a rod go by a number system (low numbers for light rods, higher numbers for heavy rods) or by the terms ultra light, light, medium light, medium, medium heavy, heavy and extra heavy. Often this term will also be reflected in the range of lures that can be cast, or the suggested line size in boat rods.

In choosing any rod, be sure that the sections fit together well if two piece and that the rod is straight with no noticeable curves. The rod will bend some as you hold it horizontally, but this is only natural and results from the weight of the blank itself.

Make sure that there are no noticeable scratches, dings, nicks, etc., that might cause rod damage later on. Do not flex two piece rod blanks much, since the ferrules on most of them are fragile and will fracture from bending stress until a rod wrap is placed on the ferrule to strengthen it for casting.

Check the spine of the blank. The
(Continued on next page.)



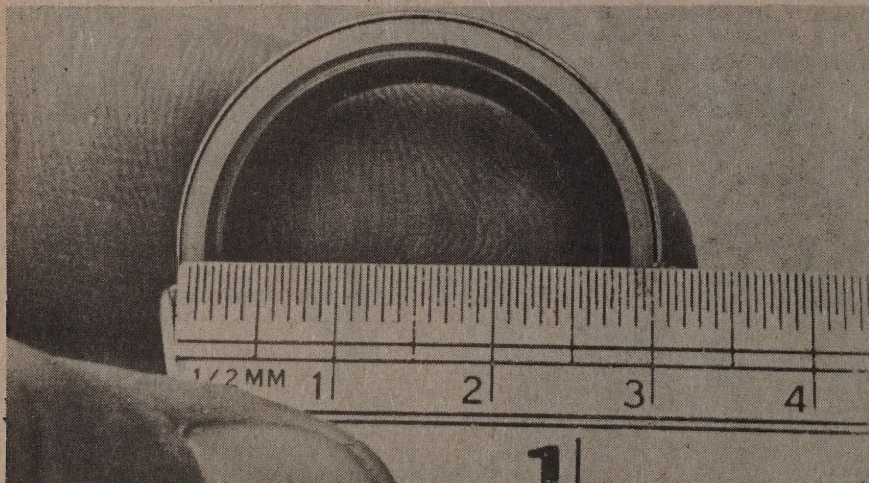
Rod blanks have many different actions for different types of fishing. Here, left to right are fast tip, moderate and slow action rods. Fast tip rods bend only in the tip, while slow rods bend all the way down into the butt section and handle area.



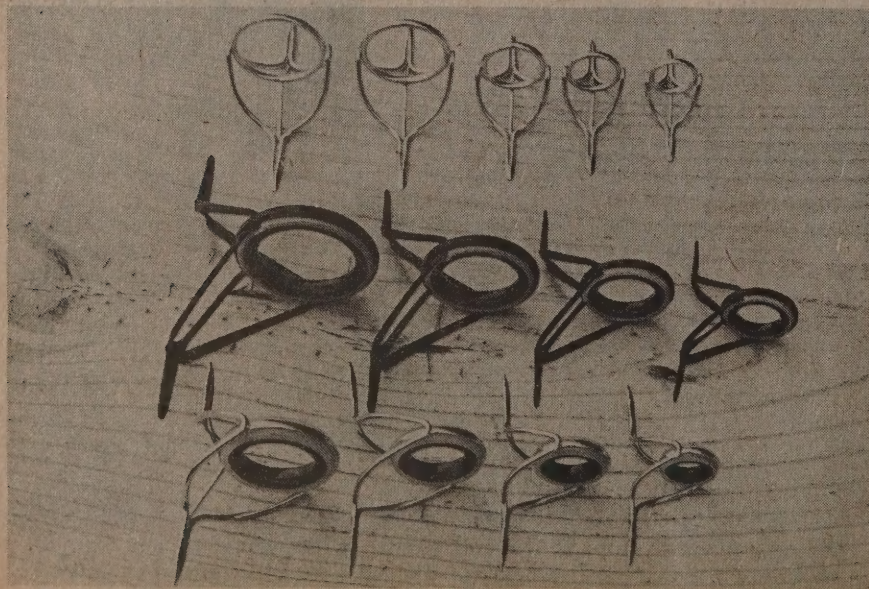
Determining the spine of the rod blank, as described in the text, is necessary to find the stiffest side of the rod where the guides should be placed. Here, Greg Clem of Tackle Crafters checks a rod for the spine by holding the tip end with his left hand, and rotating the rod under pressure with his right hand. The rod will show a pronounced stiffness or will "jump" when the spine is reached as it is rolled on a smooth table.



Greg Clem marking the rod with a pen to indicate the spine or stiff side of the rod blank. Tape has been placed on the rod blank so that the mark will show up.



Take care in choosing guide sizes. Guides are generally measured by the wire ring diameter. For wire ring guides this is accurate, but for the newer aluminum oxide guides, this results in a smaller true inside diameter than the guide size would indicate. Choose accordingly.



Spinning rod guides are available in a number of different styles as shown here. Top are wire ring guides; center are Fuji BSHG guides and bottom are Perfection Tip guides. Both bottom sets are aluminum oxide guides.

spine is the stiffest part of the blank and can be easily found by placing the blank on a smooth table, resting the tip end on the palm of your hand and then pressing down with your other hand to rotate the rod. The point where the rod seems stiffest will be the spine and the guides should be lined up with this stiff side.

Other materials should also be chosen carefully. For example, check a reel seat to make sure that it is the material that you want. Anodized aluminum is fine for freshwater anglers and saltwater anglers who wash down their tackle after each trip. Otherwise, get a chrome plated brass reel seat and use these heavier seats on all heavy rods for their strength. Make sure that all reel seats will fit the rod you wish to use, and that they will match other components to give you a pleasing finished result. If possible, check your reels to make sure that they will fit well on the hoods of the reel seat. Two lock nuts are better than one to hold the reel seat without slippage during a day's fishing.

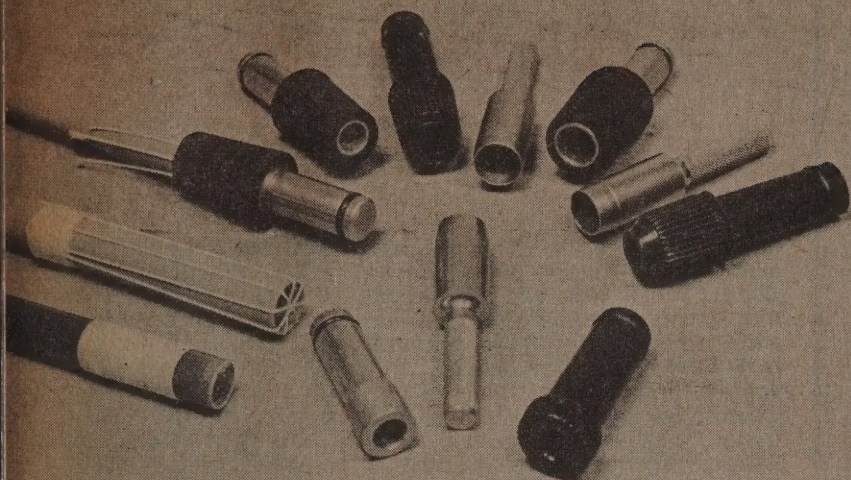
Handles or grips are available in cork, cork rings which can be built up and synthetics. Choose cork grips carefully and pick only cork which is advertised as top quality, or check for absence of pits and marks. Usually the individual cork rings have the best quality, better than that which is available in the pre-formed cork grips. Synthetic grips are uniform in quality and do not present this problem.

Guides vary in quality widely. Spinning guides are made which could be bought for about ten cents each, but you wouldn't want them since they are stamped out of one piece of metal and would groove and ruin your line (and your fishing) in only a few trips. Wire guides of chrome plated stainless are fine and were standard at one time. They are still good for light rods where you do not want a heavy guide to slow the rod and make it sluggish, and for surf rods where the larger diameter guides are required.

Aluminum oxide guides are the best, since the inner ring is impossible to groove and is protected by a shock ring of plastic held in a wire frame. While these guides are more expensive, they are well worth it since they will be good for the life of the rod. In some cases you might want to use the flex guides such as the Gudebrod Aetna Foulproof guides. These will flex with the rod as it bends, are lightweight and are ideal for light action rods when using light lines.

Rollers are best for IGFA rods, but they must be kept clean to roll properly and prevent line wear. In all cases, get the best guides that you can for your rod building, since it is foolish to scrimp on this small item and save a few bucks, but have a rod that must be rewrapped after next season.

By the same token don't get more guides than required, or more expensive



Casting and boat rods require butt ferrules to fit the blanks and to allow the blanks to fit handles. Various types of butt ferrules are available as shown here, with different ID's to fit all sizes of rod blanks. In some cases, the sizes are not exact and the blank might have to be shimmed with thread, cord or tape, as shown on the two blanks on the left.



Types of grip materials available for fishing rods include the cellite and hypalon on the left, preformed cork grips on the right, and the three sizes of cork rings at the bottom of photo.

sive guides than required. Rollers, for example, come in both regular and hardened styles, with the hardened designed for wire line. If you are not going to use wire line, it is foolish to get the more expensive guides, since for mono and Dacron, it will make no difference in line wear or fishing performance.

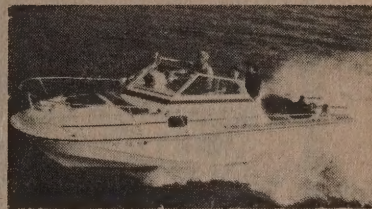
For fly rods, be sure to pick the best guides possible. Normal stainless steel snakes are the usual choice although the aluminum oxide single foot guides in small sizes are preferred by some rod builders. For saltwater fly fishing the extra heavy

chromed snake guides are more expensive (only about twenty-five cents in relation to ten cents for the regular snake guide) but well worth it for fishing saltwater.

Other parts—such as butt caps, winding checks, etc., should also be chosen for quality and total matching effect on your rod. After all, you're saving considerable money by making your rod anyway, and any slight savings on quality here will only effect your fun of fishing in years to come.

NEXT WEEK: Beginning your rod construction by making and assembling the rod handles.

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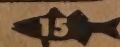
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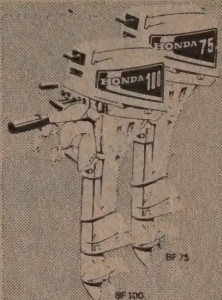
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Q: COULD YOU BE MORE SPECIFIC, PLEASE?

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HOW TO YOUR SA

by H

Sand spikes, made of a piece of aluminum or plastic tube with a slanted cut at one end and a pin through the middle are inexpensive, and widely available. In use, however, they leave much to be desired. As I see it, their major fault is the difficulty you will discover when you try to drive them into the sand. They just do not penetrate the way a metal blade will. If you have one or more of this type, don't give up hope; they can easily be converted to a much better type of rod holder.

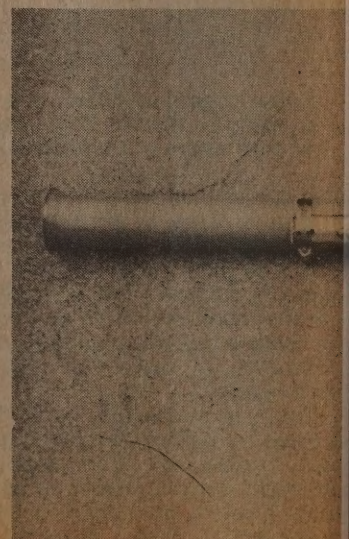
Cut off the top of the tube to a length that suits you, possibly just below the built-in pin so that you can use it as your butt stop. Now you buy an aluminum tent stake, such as the one in the picture (length about 12"). You will also need a stainless steel or brass bolt and nut, and a stainless steel hose clamp large enough to fit over the tube plus the stake.

Drill a hole large enough for your bolt, in both the lower end of your tube and about an inch-and-a-half or two inches from the upper end of the tent peg. Fit the bolt through the stake and tube, and holding the nut inside the tube with two fingers, tighten down the bolt with a screw driver. Now slide the hose clamp up to the upper end of the stake and tighten it securely. This is all that you have to do, but I also coat the juncture of the nut and bolt with a good tube cement like Weldit, to prevent the nut from working loose due to vibrations in my car. If your spike was the long type you may have material enough to make two sand spikes.

If you want to customize the tube by varying its length, throw out the built-in pin, which will often rust or corrode, and let your stainless steel bolt act as the rod butt stopper. If you want to build a long spike for the beach, buy a length of Reynolds aluminum strip in the right angle form. Many hardware stores carry this in either three-quarter or one inch sizes. The stock itself is one-eighth inch thick and is strong. This can be cut to any length that you desire. Using a hacksaw at an angle, the lower end will be cut to form a point. File off the rough edges, and you have your custom spike. Long spikes have become very popular for bait fishing on the south shore beaches, because they hold the rod higher. This keeps more of your line out of the wash, and the weeds off. As a result, your bait will stay where you want it rather than having to contend with line drag.



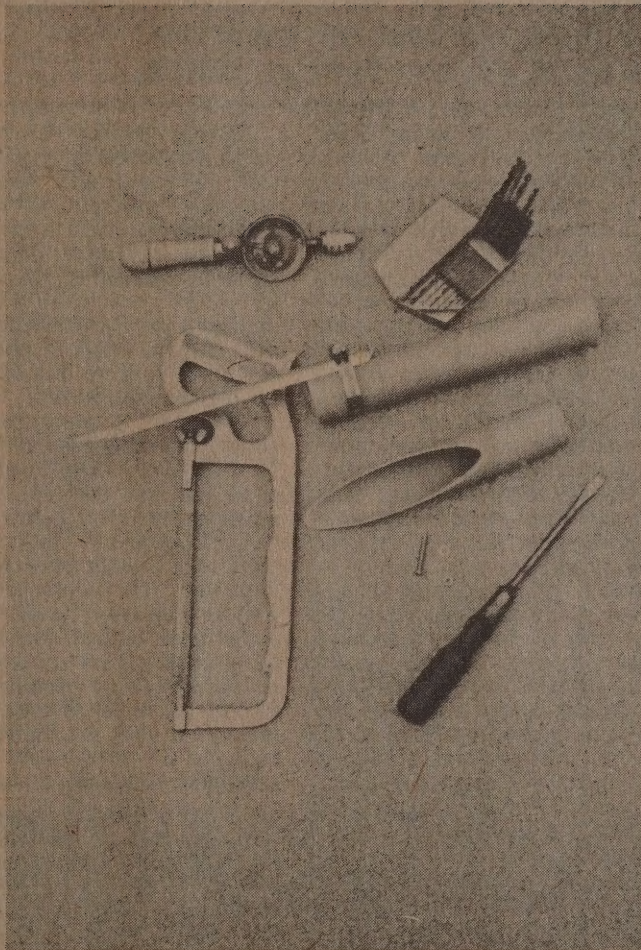
Sand spikes such as these a



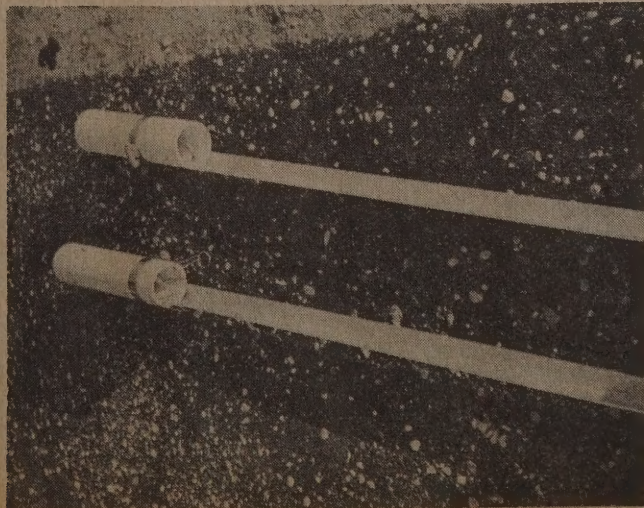
The improv

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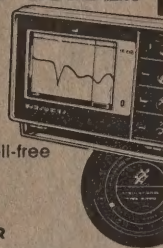
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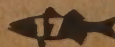
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FISHING WITH A CAMERA

by Al Ristori

One of the better know outdoor writers in the country tells how to take better fishing photos.

Before you're misled too far, the title of this article doesn't imply that I've come up with a startling new method of catching fish. The point I will try to get across is that you're missing a lot if you don't take along a camera when you go fishing.

Memories of great fishing trips never seem to dull, but everything comes into sharper focus (even years later) when there are photos to go along with those memories. In addition, you'll find that you'll have more believers if there are some pictures to back up your tales.

When I was a kid it was a big deal to take a picture of your catch. It was also quite expensive, and the results were often pretty terrible. On the other hand, today's cameras make everything so simple that even the rankest amateur has a hard time making a mistake. Yet, despite great technological advances (or, perhaps, because of those advances), the prices of fine cameras have remained almost unchanged as inflation has soared.

Before going any further, let me lay

my credentials on the table. Quite frankly, I have none! Upon deciding that I wanted to be an outdoor writer, I found that it was necessary to have photos accompanying the articles submitted. At that point, I started a course in the college of hard knocks—learning by screwing up! I sure did screw up a lot of film in the process of learning, but that was before cameras became so automated that it's become difficult to make a mistake. Today, there's no need to use a hand-held meter or even to set in both f-stop and speed. The camera does practically everything for you, leaving you with the sole responsibility of composing and focusing the shot correctly. That's the reason I'm writing this article as an experienced amateur—for other amateurs. You'll find no technical jargon because I don't know it! Furthermore, you'll find no romance with the camera as is typical of photography magazines. To me, the camera is just a tool which provides me with the end product I desire.

Despite my lack of training, I've taken thousands of photos during the last 15 years and used them to illustrate hundreds of articles. I've given many a slide presentation, and have even had cover shots on several national magazines. All of which goes to prove not that I'm a good photographer (which I don't claim to be), but that modern photography is so simple that no one has an excuse for feeling inadequate.

The secret to taking good photos is simply to compose them correctly. This requires some forethought, but once you get used to thinking out what you're trying to end up with, it's not difficult at all. The first important point is to always have your cameras with you. There are some outdoor writers who have never taken a real action shot. Indeed, there was a great temptation to "set up" shots a couple of decades ago because the large format cameras favored then were bulky and very expensive. However, today's 35 mm SLRs are light, reasonably resistant to saltwater, and



A common mistake—shooting from too great a distance or not using a longer range lens. The result is that there is too much water in the foreground and the big bluefish really does look too big.

perfectly suited to action photography. They can also take quite a beating without breaking. Buy a good padded camera case to carry your photography equipment in. The Halliburton aluminum cases are worth their weight in gold, though saltwater will eventually do a job on the metal. Recently I've also seen good camera cases made out of fiberglass. With a quality camera case you can carry your equipment anywhere and always know that it will be in perfect operating condition when you need it.

As pretty as those shiny new cases look, it's a good idea to make some distinguishing marks on them right away. I bought the Halliburton case I'm using now second-hand from Rip Cunningham of "Salt Water Sportsman." Rip needed a larger case, and the one he sent me was virtually spotless. However, it was sprayed with a bright orange paint around the middle. The reason for this was to prevent it from "walking away" down the dock or in an airport. There are lots of pretty camera cases laying around which can be easily stolen; but anyone walking off with mine will pick out like the proverbial sore thumb.

Once you've gotten used to having your camera gear along, the next step is to remember to take it out. That may sound simple enough to a non-fisherman, but it is something of a project for a true believer in the sport. The best shots are usually available when the fishing is red hot, and it's not easy to put down your rod. That camera is part of my livelihood, but I still have a hard time disciplining myself to pick it up when the fish are flying!

The most important factor in composition is to get the horizon straight. That's no big deal on land, but it's something else in a rolling, pitching boat. Actually, it doesn't have to be rough at all in order for you to screw up the horizon when shooting from a boat. If you don't keep that point firmly in mind, you'll waste a lot of film and miss some fine shots. No one enjoys looking at photos with the horizon going from one corner to the next. No matter how good the shot is otherwise, the only spot for such photos is in the trash can.

The next thing you want to do is fill the frame. Avoid lots of dead space, particularly in front of the subject. That old trick about holding the fish out in front of you to make it look bigger works, but a fish held at arms length looks so phony that not even non-fishermen will fall for that gambit. The best bet is to work in close on the subject. If you're dealing with a relatively small fish, have the angler hold him up near his face and frame just the subject's head and as much of his body as is covered by the fish. That's especially important with all people, who can make even fairly large fish appear small.

Though there's nothing wrong with looking at the camera, the picture will

(Continued on next page.)



The vertical format and centering of the subjects makes this shot of 3-year-old Sherilyn Ristori holding one of daddy's bluefish an interesting one.



When working with children, get everything set up in advance. A small scale is ideal for holding fish, but Sherilyn and Michael Ristori just couldn't hang onto these big porgies on the mono leaders long enough for daddy to take the shot.

be more interesting if the angler is admiring the fish. Unless you're using a fill-in flash, ask the subject to remove his or her hat and sunglasses. Hats throw shadows which may practically hide the subject's face. Also be sure the angler looks happy. Some people smile instinctively when being photographed, while others turn deadly serious. Use some chatter to loosen up the latter types. When setting up your shot, consider the background. If you're on shore there may be rocks or trees that will make a pleasing backdrop. In a boat, it's often best to use the water. You certainly want to avoid cluttered backgrounds, such as a cabin. The viewer's eye should go right to that which you are attempting to illustrate.

Two words about blood: avoid it! Blood just doesn't look good in a photo and it really turns off non-fishermen. If you have a choice, shoot fish that haven't been wounded with a gaff or by a swallowed hook. If there's a bit of blood on the fish, wipe it off before shooting. Also, beware of any blood on the deck, or the angler's hands, that may get into the photo. If you have any thoughts about selling to a magazine, the better publications avoid blood in pictures like the plague. They also don't run photos of big catches, except under very unusual circumstances.

One of the problems with waiting until the fishing is all over before taking pictures is that the fish just don't look the same any more. It's a lot harder to shoot them alive and

kicking, but you will get the true colors then and a 100% better photo. That's important with all species, but especially so with fish that lose their distinctive colors or markings quickly. Among these are dolphin, wahoo, roosterfish, and all of the tunas and billfishes. Even the comparatively dull amberjack is a beautiful fish when its black feeding stripe is still evident, but that fades out almost immediately when it's removed from the water.

Instead of just taking pictures of dead fish, try to record all the important aspects of the day. Be sure to get shots of rods bending, hooks being baited, casts being made, the gaffing process, releasing and/or fish cleaning and preparation. Try to be unobtrusive as you take action shots, and don't be afraid to experiment with different angles. You can get some great shots by shooting down from a cabin top or flying bridge—or by shooting up from the deck. Also, remember that your camera doesn't have to be used in a horizontal plane at all times. Quite often you can frame the subject better in a vertical—and slide presentations are more interesting if there's a mix of vertical and horizontal shots.

There's nothing more beautiful in the fishing world than the sight of a jumping fish. Unfortunately, it isn't all that easy to capture such jumps on film. Most amateur jump shots end up showing a tiny speck of a fish surrounded by a vast area of water and sky. When jumping fish are far

from the boat, you'll need long range lenses, but it's very difficult to keep the long barrels of those lenses steady on a boat. In addition, focusing is also a problem when you don't know just where the fish will be surfacing. Therefore, the best bet is to forget about those jumps far from the boat and hope for some at close range. When the fish is within 100 ft., keep your standard lens or short telescope focused at infinity and be ready to shoot.

Now that we've gone over some of the things to keep in mind when shooting fishing scenes, let's take a look at the equipment available to you. There are many types of cameras on the market, and all have their place. For instant gratification, you can't beat the Polaroid; but the cost per photo is very high and the system is basically intended for simple setup shots, rather than action photography. Other simple cameras will provide you with good prints at a reasonable cost after processing, though, once again, they aren't really suitable for action shots. Your best bet is to invest in a good 35mm SLR system and shoot slide film. Color slides are the cheapest way to go these days, and they provide you with the option of showing your slides with a projector or having the best ones blown up to any size you choose. Modern slide film is so good that it's become standard for use in the best magazines, and most professional photographers have abandoned the large format cameras for 35mm

systems.

In this age of rampant inflation, it seems that everything costs far more than it did just a few years ago. Two exceptions to that rule are marine electronics and cameras. Great technological advances and intense competition make it possible for us to buy cameras that do practically everything for us for just a few hundred dollars. Indeed, I spent as much for a used Nikkormat 12 years ago as it would cost to buy a much finer Nikon with many advanced features today. However, that old Nikkormat has been used in saltwater all these years and is still operating as good as new!

If I seem enthusiastic about Nikon, it's not only because I've found the cameras to be perfectly reliable—but also because they make the single lens which I've found to be best for use in a boat. The 43-86mm short telescopic will do the job in relatively cramped quarters, while also having the capability to reach out for jumping fish close to the boat. Just about every decent jump shot I've ever gotten has been taken with that lens, which can be held steady on a rocking boat because of its short length.

I bought my Nikkormat in order to be able to use the 43-86mm lens, and had no other lens for that camera until recently. Generally, when you buy a Nikon or any other SLR, it will come with a standard 50mm lens. This lens sees things about as the human eye does and can be very useful. However, you can get along without it—and don't usually have to take it. You can buy the Nikon body alone, and add the lens, or trade-in the 50mm toward the higher cost of the 43-86mm.

If you do want to go into other lenses, the next choice for use on a boat should be a 28mm wide angle. This will allow you to get in tight and drink in everything you want to show. Longer lenses are nice to have for portrait work or to reach out with when the camera can be held steady. The popular 135mm is fairly easy to hold, but a telescopic will give you a greater range to work with.

It doesn't take long at all to fill up a camera case with various filters and other accessories, but you really don't need all that when you're just starting out. A package of lens cleaning tissues is important, and automatic flash units are so inexpensive these days that you might as well buy one right away. Try to keep saltwater off your camera, and especially off the lens. However, if you're going to take action shots, some spray is inevitable. Keep the lens clear with the cleaning tissue and spray the camera body (but not the lens) with WD-40 or similar substance.

In buying a camera, you'll get what you pay for in terms of advanced features. I'm presently using the Nikon FE, which automatically sets the speed as I set the f-stop, and am very happy with it. Make sure that any model you buy has a built-in light meter which provides you with the

information you need as you look through the viewer to focus. Also be sure that the camera will take a variety of lenses. Keep in mind that there are different locking systems for lenses, and not all manufacturers lenses are interchangeable. An important tip about buying cameras and lenses: shop around! Prices vary greatly, but you can determine quickly about what you should pay for any item by checking the prices advertised by the biggest photography dealers in the country every month in the back of the national photography magazines. As a general rule, you can also forget about waiting to go overseas to buy your photo equipment. Almost invariably you'll do better right here where there's intense competition!

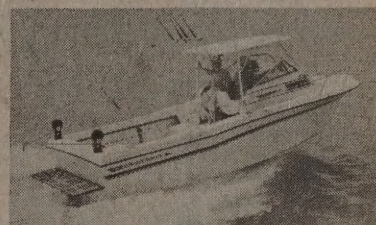
As far as film is concerned, you can't go wrong with Kodachrome. In fact the national outdoor magazines prefer Kodachrome 64. However, I've also used Fujichrome (ASA 100) with excellent results—and got surprisingly good photos from the new high-speed 3M Color Slide 400. The ASA number indicates the speed of the film and this must be set into your camera in order for the light meter to give you the correct readings. As automated as cameras are today, this is the one area where it's easy to foul up. If you ever use different film be sure to remember to change the ASA number on your camera!

In determining what film you should use, remember that the higher the ASA, the faster it is. Therefore, if you're shooting in low light conditions a high ASA film is preferable. The same thing applies if you're shooting jumping fish. With the high ASA film you'll be able to shoot at the camera's highest speed (usually 1/500th or 1/1000th) with a high f-stop to provide for depth-of-field and stop the action. The kicker is that the higher ASA films are also grainier and don't blow up as well. For that reason, magazines used to prefer the very slow ASA 25 Kodak film. However, the current Kodachrome 64 is rated so highly that there's no need to go any slower. I've found the ASA 100 Fujichrome provides a good compromise between the need for faster film under some conditions and a grain fine enough to provide beautiful blow-ups. You'll rarely have any actual need for an ASA 400 film, but I was pleased with enlargements I got from the new 3M film.

All of what I've written should be taken for what it is: advice from an amateur to other amateurs. However, if you follow the advice provided you'll probably come up with better photos than you ever thought you could take. By all means, study the manual that comes with the camera, and don't hesitate to learn all you can by reading photography books and magazines. Try to become as good a photographer as possible and you'll find even greater pleasure in your fishing!

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by Pete Barrett

"Sailfish Alley" of the Florida coast stretches along the edge of the Gulf Stream and the fish will be found in waters ranging from 60' to 360' depending on the time of year. Summer fish can usually be found more inshore, while winter fish move further offshore looking for water of at least 68° and preferably a bit warmer.

They can amaze even veteran anglers who may find a lone fish working over a reef in the very

shallow water. Last year while snapper fishing off Tavernier we had a single live bally drop off a rigger while we fished for muttons. We never saw the sail until he hit, but we did see sheets of ballyhoo darting clear of the water back in the slick. Moments later my wife was fast to a good sail.

For sheer angling excitement, few fish can match the sailfish for speed, acrobatics and challenge. They are

also relatively abundant, giving a large number of anglers a chance at catching one.

Sailfish grow fast. In one year they can reach a weight of 25 to 35 lbs. and a two-year-old fish ranges from 5' to 6' in length and weighs up to 60 lbs. Unfortunately they aren't a long-lived fish and usually die within five to six years, although a few tagged specimens have been known to live longer.

The current all tackle IGFA record

is a 128 lb. fish taken off Angola on the Coast of Africa where seven other records for various line classes have also been set.

In Florida, a fish over 80 lbs. is considered very large and rarely do sails go over the hundred pound mark. Because most of the fish will fall in the 30 to 60 lb. weight class, they are ideal candidates for light tackle angling and most private and charter boats will use spinning tackle to gain the maximum sport.

My own preference is for 20 lb. tackle because it offers the most fun. The fish seem to pull harder, jump more and in general, give a better account of themselves on the 20 lb. line. They will also come to the boat in much better condition than if played to exhaustion on 6 or 12 lb. line. This is a very important consideration if you intend to tag and release your catch. But it's up to the individual angler. There's no doubt, however, that landing a 60 lb. sail on 6 lb. line is a supreme angling challenge.

Several baits work for sails, but the favorite baits will vary along different parts of the coast. North of West Palm, goggle eyes are a preferred bait, while more to the south and into the Keys captains look to live bally, pilchards, cigar minnows and mullet.

Whichever bait you choose, a live tank is a must to keep the bait fresh and swimming lively.

Hooks will vary with the captain or anglers' preference. Some like a long shank hook, but most anglers lean towards the short shank tuna style hook like the eagle Claw #188 or Mustad #94150 in sizes of 3/0 to 7/0 depending on the size of the bait. Your best bet is to use the smallest size hook possible.

Rig the business end of your tackle with a Bimini of about at least ten feet and add a leader of about ten more feet. IGFA allows you more double line and leader than that; but too long a double line/leader can hang up in the rod guides when casting baits or manipulating the tackle. I use a Uni-Knot to attach the hook, so the hook can swing free, but any other loop knot will work.

Live baits can be drifted or fished off kites. Florida Keys skippers have been relying more and more on power drifting or slow trolling live baits to cover more water and therefore, increase the chances of hook-ups. Four or more baits can be trolled at distances of 50' to 150' back. The reels are left with the bails open and a small piece of soft copper wire utilized to hold the line. At the strike the wire bends out of the way, the angler closes the bail and sets up on the fish.

This method works with amazing success. If you get lucky, you may find a day when there are "Tailers" surfing wave crests in the top few feet of water. The fish are easy to see and you can run your boat up ahead of the fish and wait for them to come to you. As the sail gets into range, cast the bally, mullet or pilchard in front of,

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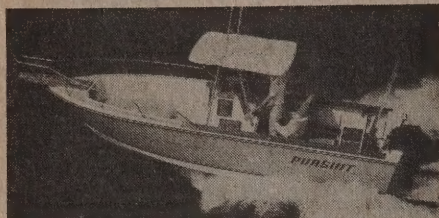
Author about to release one of several sails caught off Florida Keys.



Linda and Rich Barrett fill out release award forms after they released 3 sails each.

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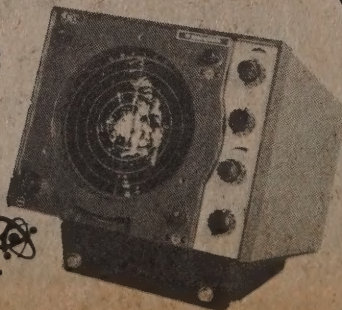
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but past the fish, retrieving the bait right across his nose. This is sailfishing at its best and makes for fishing tales to be long told back at the dock.

Fishing with Captain Ted D'Esposito on the "Sump N Special" out of Islamorada we had the best sailfishing I've ever had, when Tailers were working along the edge of blue water as it met the cloudy water along the reef edge. We tagged and released 13 sails that day, broke off several more and really had a ball.

Artificial lures are gaining in popularity. Some anglers mix and match the baits with skirts and bubblebers or run the lures straight. One advantage of the lures is the ability to cover a lot of water. On another day, the opposite of the good day with Tailers, we had only two sightings of sails after nearly six hours of fishing. As a last ditch effort, we put out a pattern of six lures and began working the edge as it dropped off. After two more hours of fishing we hooked and landed five fish. The magic lure that day was a miniature green machine type lure with a strip of bally added for spice.

While trolling it pays to keep a watchful eye on the graph recorder to keep track of the water depth the fish are holding in. You may find all your hits coming in a narrow range of depth of, say 90' to 100'. Troll in shallower or deeper water and you'll get no strikes. Sails are notorious for working a narrow band of water.

Keep a watchful eye for water color. The fish will often work along the change in water color as it goes from cloudy to blue, or blue to deep purple. A temperature gauge can help pinpoint the fish with additional accuracy.

Sails will most often travel WITH the sea. Trolling at an angle, zigzagging across the sea is considered the most effective pattern, but it always pays to be sure; and if the fishing is slow, try trolling sets across the sea, into it and with the sea so you cover all possibilities.

A mild cold front that brings some wind with it is an ideal sailfish time. Sails seem to prefer choppy water and many of the best days are in rough water conditions. It can be difficult fishing in a small boat, but if you can stand the cold and the salt spray, your banner days are usually on the rough water weather.

Some fish you catch because they are good to eat; others because they are easy to catch and good for your ego. But sailfish require more of the angler. You must keep your wits about you, constantly watching the baits, watching the recorder, the water color, the temperature and the trolling or drift pattern. The reward when you finally get the strike is a fish that blasts out of the water in astonishing leaps, scorches drag washers with blistering runs and fights with more heart than many other fish twice their size.

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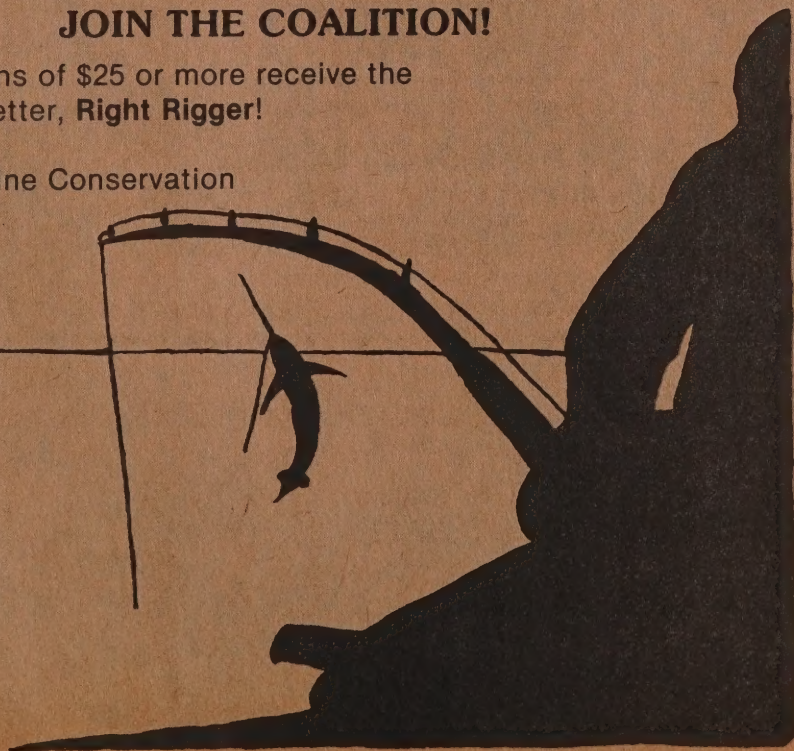


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GEL COAT FACTS

by Bob Whittier

Most boat owners have heard the term "gel coat" and have a vague idea that it has something to do with the fiberglass from which their boats are made. But that's about the extent of their knowledge.

To keep a boat looking well, it is necessary to have a basic knowledge of gel coat.

Gel coat appears to be so called simply because when sprayed onto the polished surface of a mold, it solidifies, or gels. Some fiberglass people prefer to call it "shell coat," which describes it in a more accurate way.

What it is is simply this: it's the outermost layer of resin in a fiberglass laminate. It is NOT put onto the outside of a fiberglass boat as the final step in construction. It may seem strange to many who know little about fiberglass, but this outermost layer is actually put on as the very first step in making a fiberglass hull, deck or other part. After the mold has been

carefully waxed and polished very smooth, gel coat is sprayed onto the surface of the mold with a suitable type of spray gun. The side of the gel coat layer that is against the mold takes on the smoothness of the mold's surface, while the other side, or that which is exposed to view, has a rough surface resembling orange peel, resulting from the spraying process. It cures with a slightly tacky feel which assures a good bond to the fiberglass laminate.

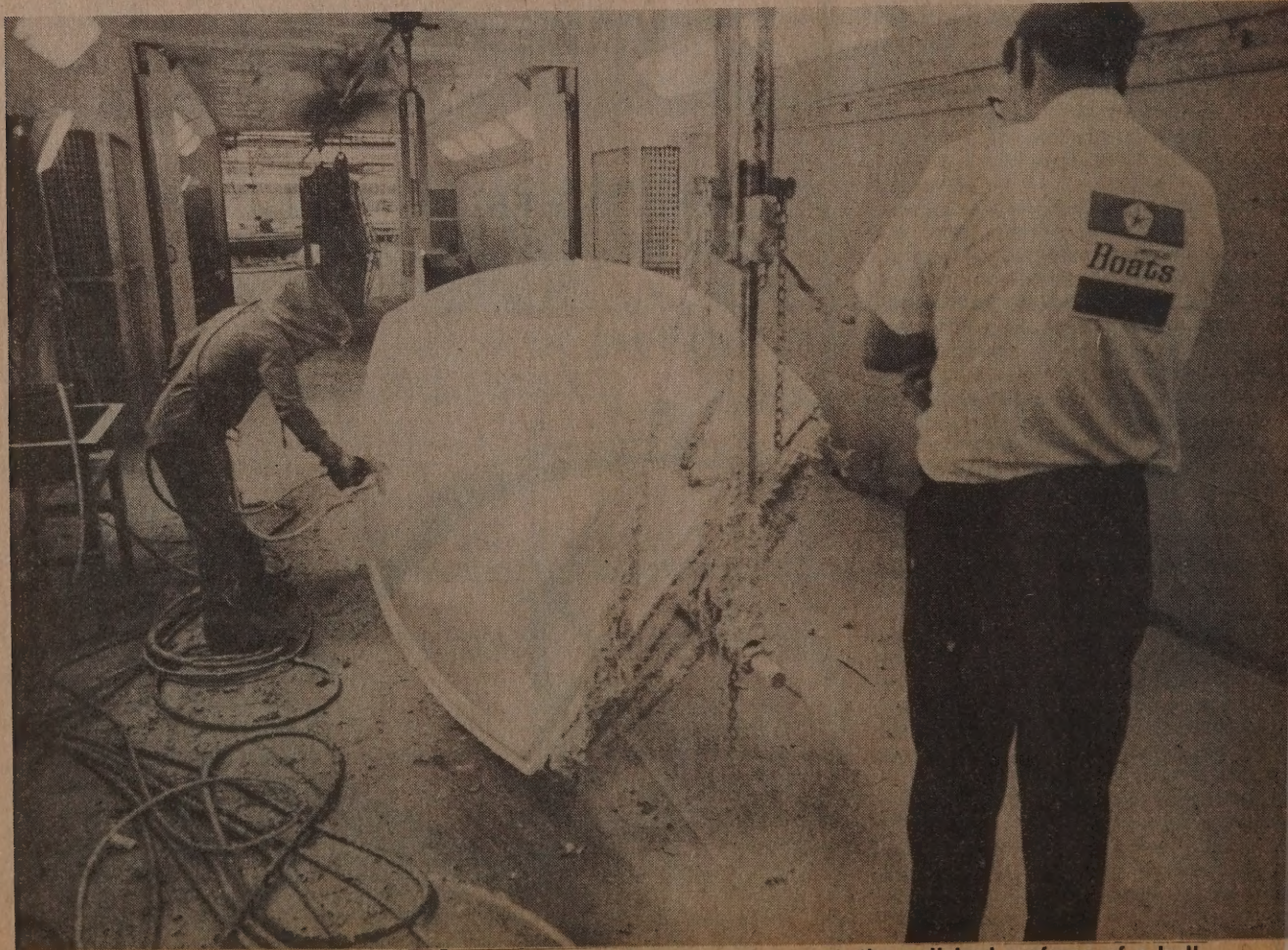
When the gel coat has cured hard enough to stand working, clear resin is brushed or sprayed on it and the first layer of glass fabric laid in place over it. The glass is rolled down smoothly and neatly into the resin, and is followed by as many more layers of glass fabric as are called for to get the desired laminate thickness. When the resin has cured hard, the finished part is lifted out of the mold. The gel coat has the same fine polish as does the surface of the mold, and

no further finishing steps are required on the part. Thus much time and expense is saved compared to the many steps involved in painting wooden boats.

Gel coat is basically like the clear resin used for laminating, but it is compounded to have better weather resistance and enough flexible toughness to afford reasonable abrasion resistance. It is given its color by the addition of pigments.

Considerable skill is required to spray gel coat onto molds. Molds for such parts as decks, in particular, have many corners and recesses which make it tricky to obtain uniform thickness—in trying to get adequate coating thickness when spraying into the mold recess that will form, for example, a toe rail, it is easy to get overspray and thus excessive thickness on areas around the depression.

The ideal gel coat thickness is about .015 inch. If it happens to be somewhat thinner than that, the



This operator is using a production-type gun to spray gel coat on the polished surfaces of a hull mold. Gel coat has the consistency of a very heavy paint or thin putty.

greyish color of the underlying laminate may show through as a greyish mottled effect. If it is only slightly thin, it may cover the laminate all right when the boat is new, but as time passes, repeated polishing jobs can thin it down so this mottling begins to appear.

If the gel coat is too thick, something like .020 inch or more, it will tend to be brittle, just like an overly thick coat of paint. After awhile the entire surface of the deck or hull will become covered with a random pattern of hairline cracks called "crazing." Gel coat cracks caused by a boat bumping into something tend to be localized and have a ragged, star-like pattern. Cracks that run in close-together lines along some part of a boat usually are caused by flexing of the underlying laminate, due to inadequate thickness or stiffening.

"Pimpling" of gel coat on the bottoms of boats moored for long periods of time has been a problem for years. The pimpling can take the form of hundreds of small blisters resembling gooseflesh on human skin, or they can be as large as nickels and quarters. There are many causes and it takes a fiberglass expert to pinpoint the cause of any particular case. It can be anything such as use of improper gel coat, too much solvent, something done wrong in the laminating shop, or putting a new boat out to mooring before its fiberglass has had a chance to thoroughly cure. Gel coat manufacturers have made a lot of progress in recent years in producing gel coat with better pimpling resistance.

Just as light passes through a fiberglass porch awning, it passes through a boat's gel coat and laminate. Gel coat pigments can and do fade. Light colors such as the whites, tans and greys seen on so many mass-produced boats, tend to have best fade resistance. Darker blues and greens, and also red and black, tend to fade sooner and become chalky. Fiberglass cleaners will brighten up a mild case of fading, and fiberglass rubbing compound will help the looks of a more advanced case of fading. But finally, sunlight passing through the gel coat will fade all of the pigment and no amount of work will restore original color.

Use of fiberglass wax two or more times a year can help preserve appearance by keeping air away from the gel coat surface, thus slowing down oxidation of the resin's surface. It is difficult to repair scratches and holes in fiberglass as far as perfect color matching is concerned, because the gel coat on a boat that has been outdoors will usually have faded as compared to a can of fresh gel coat of the boat's original color.

When fading, surface crazing or plain wear and tear has made an older fiberglass boat an eyesore to look at, resort can be made to painting the whole craft with one of the paints offered by all leading marine paint manufacturers for use on fiberglass.

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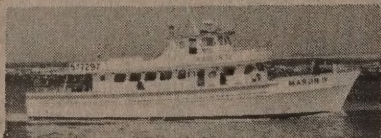
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Fishing Reports

by Stu Miller

MONTAUK

Captain Paul Forsberg of the **Viking**



Barry Howell, along with Phil, Chester, Ron and Tony (in photo) show some of the many blues taken at Montauk aboard the "Julie III" last September.

Fleet reports that on Wednesday seven passengers had good fishing, with a catch of 150 fish. High hook was John Sheppard from Manhasset, New York. He had 30 fish to 30 lbs; 28 cod and 2 pollack. On Saturday fishing was slow but good, with 5-6 fish per man, to 30 lbs. Fishing in Key West on the **Viking Starship** still fantastic.

CAPTREE

Captain Tom of the charter boat **Lady Ann** called to say that the boat is being spruced up for upcoming flounder time and he is now accepting spring flounder charters and anticipates a good season ahead.

FREEPORT

The **Capt. Al** reports that on Wednesday's trip they had several good cod for 5 men, but had to return early due to strong winds and bitter cold weather.



John Paul Kanich with his first sailfish, a 165 lber. taken while vacationing in Acapulco. Subscriber photo.

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Now there's an amazingly lightweight, incredibly strong one-foot spinning guide made right here in the U.S.A. by America's leading manufacturer of quality rod guides: Perfection Tip Company. Perfection's new one-foot guides feature super smooth aluminum oxide guide rings for a casting surface that's virtually friction free. These special guide rings result in smoother, cooler line travel for increased casting distance with reduced line wear. The one foot frames are lightweight stainless steel, built tough for the active fisherman. One foot design reduces weight and does not hinder the responsiveness of the blank like heavier two footed guides. Nylon shock inserts protect the guide ring from external abuse and these handsome guides are available with chrome or black finish!

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Byrd Industries' new "Model 1260 Magnum Eagle" electric fishing motor features a compact 8 in. bow-mount bracket, allowing for the use of this valuable angling accessory even when available mounting space is at a premium.

Engineered for quiet, reliably efficient performance, the hand-controlled Model 1260 is equipped with stainless steel, radial thrust ball bearing movements for maximum smoothness in the power unit. Adjustable true-course steering in the upper unit provides tight, responsive turning and course holding.

Byrd has reinforced the Model 1260 with a broad range of heavy-duty components for the demanding requirements of extensive marine use. Standard protective equipment includes hand-painted wire terminals, triple-sealed propeller shaft, anodized aluminum shaft, automatic circuit breaker switch (with manual reset), and heavy duty 12 gauge wiring throughout.

Other standard features on the Model 1260 include 3 forward and 3 reverse speeds, extra-long extension handle, reversible control head, and full depth adjustment.

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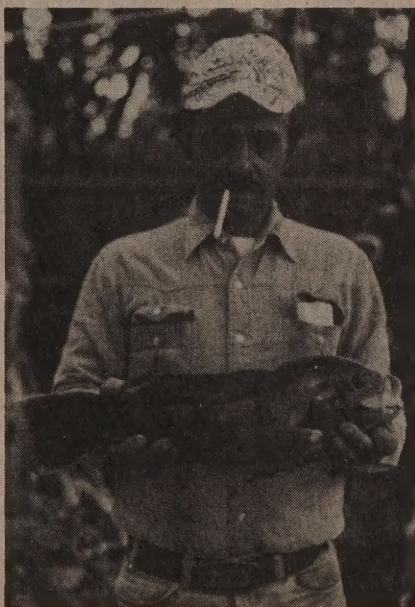
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Michael Liquori displays a 6¾ lb. blackfish taken in October on the Sheepshead Bay open boat, "Atomic." It took a green crab.

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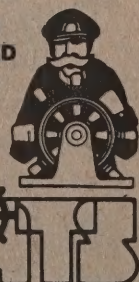
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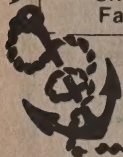
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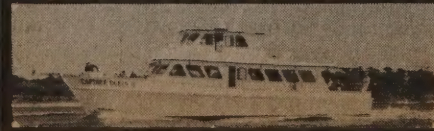
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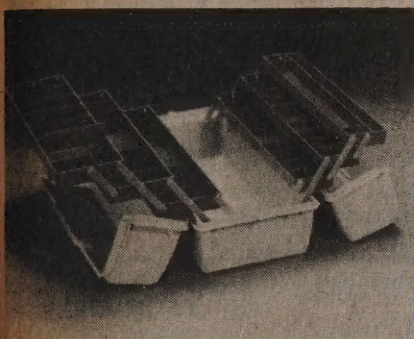
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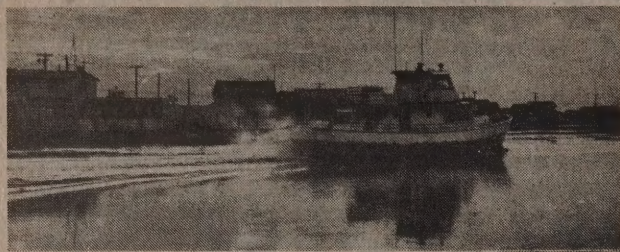
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Frok Ayr-Way Industries, Inc., P.O. Box 426, McCray Court, Kendallville, IN 46755.

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A new heat exchanger with about 50% greater cooling capacity than the conventional Detroit Diesel Allison unit has been developed by Johnson & Towers, Inc., Mt. Laurel, NJ, for use as standard equipment on the company's JT-6V92TI and JT-8V92TI marine diesel engines, according to Al Harris, VicePresident-Marketing.

The new heat exchanger designed and engineered by J&T employs several features that allow it to cool more efficiently the high output

marine pleasure craft engines now in demand, Harris said.

The tank is fabricated of cast iron with two 90/10 copper/nickel heat exchanger elements mounted horizontally. These elements offer a special fluid-to-fluid de-aeration design that maximizes their efficiency, and both elements are protected against galvanic corrosion with zinc anodes.

The J&T heat exchanger elements have 33% more surface area and about half again the velocity of water flow-through than the Detroit Diesel factory cooling system. The new unit is also four inches thinner, making the J&T marine engines that much shorter than comparable DDA models.

For more information, contact: Al Harris, VP Marketing, Johnson & Towers, Inc., P.O. Box 38, Moorestown, NJ 08057; (609) 234-6990.

ANCHOR MAGIC

J.R. Foxway Corporation has developed and is now marketing its brand-new Anchor Magic. Designed for use on both power and sail boats, it eliminates the necessity of either cutting an anchor line or losing that "big fish." The boater simply pitches Anchor Magic overboard, where it serves as a buoy to be retrieved later.

The Anchor Magic is highly visible in the water because of the brilliant orange/red color.

When you drop anchor, the line peels off like a spinning reel and provides the ideal way to easily coil back.

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Anchor Magic is extremely compact. The 10" high model has a 12" diameter base, and will handle 200' 1/2" line. Lil Anchor Magic is 8" high, handling 100 ft. of line.

Before stowing or transporting, the flex-cord binder is flipped in position to hold the line neatly in place. The nylon cord handle folds down to save storage space.

For more information, write: J. Foxway Corporation, Box 223, Hesperia, CA 92345.



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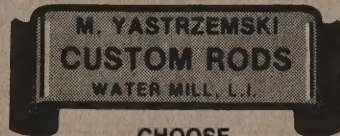
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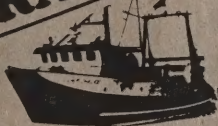
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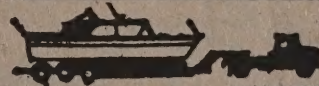
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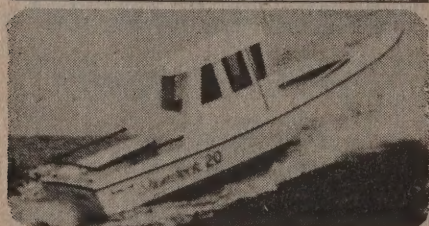
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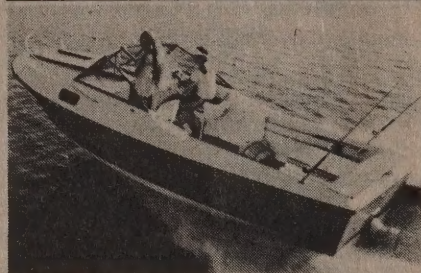
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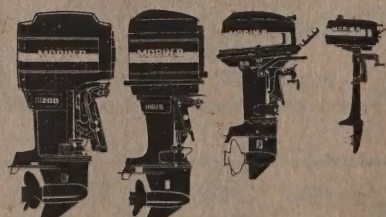
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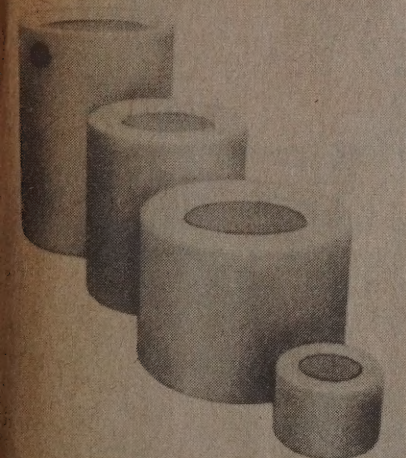
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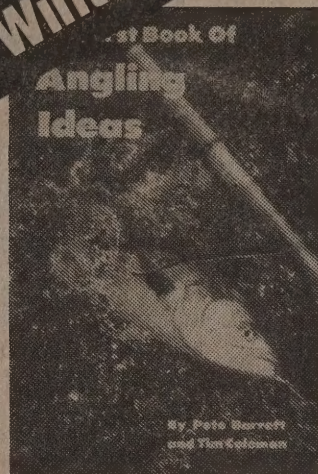
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